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Proceedings of the Club

Tuesday, May 14, 1901

The meeting was held at the museum of the New York Botanical Garden, with Dr. Rusby in the chair. Twenty-seven persons were present.

Two new members were elected: Miss Heloise F. Esterly, Inwood, New York City; Dr. Wm. A. Murrill, 232 W. 114th Street.

Five resignations were accepted, of Mr. Wm. L. Fisher, 4670 Lake Avenue, Chicago; Miss Mary Appleton, Riverdale; Miss Beatrix Jones, 21 E. 11th Street; Dr. Clarence C. Howard, 57 W. 51st Street; Mr. A. Emil Schmidt, 448 E. 59th Street.

On vote of the Club the Treasurer was requested to furnish at the next meeting a list of all members delinquent in dues and of the amounts due.

Dr. Britton announced the next meeting of the Horticultural Society on the 11th of June at the Botanical Garden, at 2 P. M., to be devoted particularly to a rose, paeonia and spiraea exhibit. He also extended the invitation of that Society to members of the Torrey Club to be present at that and any subsequent meetings.

Dr. Schoeney, of the Committee on Field Meetings, spoke in favor of making out and printing field programs for the entire summer at one time. Voted to authorize committee to take this course at their discretion.

A letter was read from Mrs. Josephine D. Lowe, of Noroton, Connecticut, inviting the Club to make one of its field excursions to Noroton and vicinity. The invitation was accepted for the second Saturday in June.

The scientific program was as follows:

Professor Underwood spoke on "The Genus *Pteridium*," the type of which is the widely distributed and well-known *Pteris aquilina* of Linnaeus. It was separated from the genus *Pteris* by Gleditsch in 1751, followed by Scopoli in 1760. The principal generic character distinguishing it from *Pteris* is the presence of a double indusium. Specimens of various species, varieties and forms were shown, including extremely large specimens of *Pteridium aquilinum* collected by the speaker in southern France.

Three species may be recognized in North America. The first of these is the common and variable *Pteridium aquilinum*, of which the recently described variety *pseudocaudatum* Clute is more or less common from New Jersey southward.

The second species is *P. caudatum* found in the extreme tropical portion of Florida. The third, which occurs in the West Indies, seems to be identical with a species originally described from Brazil, though it has been confused with *Pteris esculenta*, a species originally described from the Society Islands. Species from South Africa, India and the Hawaiian Islands were also mentioned.

Dr. D. T. MacDougal gave an account of " Carpotropic Movements of Flowers," taking his illustrations from plants in bloom at the time. The two classes of movements of flowers are the induced or protective and the developmental or automatic. Of the former, the wild carrot furnishes a good example, its umbels being erect during the day and pendent or inverted at night. The segments of the perianth of the tulip also furnish a good illustration of movements induced by changing conditions of temperature.

Developmental movements, *i. e.*, those due to forces which originate within the plant, are well shown in the inflorescence of *Allium Neapolitanum*. The inflorescence here is nodding when in the bud, but the development of the flowers sends a stimulus to the curved portion of the peduncle, causing it to straighten. In addition, the plant is provided against accident by the fact that each pedicel will bend so as to erect the flower if the peduncle is prevented from straightening. Under normal conditions the pedicels take positions separating the flowers equally. In *Claytonia Virginica*, the buds are nodding, the flowers erect. After fertilization, there is another curvature, more abrupt and nearer the base of the pedicel. In *Streptocarpus*, the flower-stalk is curved and somewhat coiled in the bud, while the open flower is horizontal, bending the stalk at a right angle, and after fertilization, the maturing fruit becomes erect. The movements of the fruit, in many cases at least, are for the better dissemination of the seeds, and the movements of the flower are commonly connected with methods of fertilization. Dr. MacDougal referred also to the curious development of the cotyledons in *Streptocarpus*. One of the cotyledons ceases to grow after a time, while the other elongates very much. In one species, this cotyledon remains the only foliage of the plant.

Dr. N. L. Britton gave an account of "An undescribed species of *Stachys*," remarking that many North American species were until a few years ago referred to the *Stachys palustris* of Europe, but have more recently been recognized as distinct. A plant which grows on the sand hills along the beach near New Dorp, Staten Island, is really very different from the European *S. palustris*, and may safely be considered a new species. It has been collected in Michigan by Mr. Farwell and a specimen from Illinois is in the Chapman Herbarium. The species is apparently confined to sandy shores.

E. L. BURGESS,
Secretary.